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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

29 JUN 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

SUBJECT: Soviet Chemical Warfare Capabilities

REFERENCES: a. Memorandum from Major General Keegan, Jr., USAF, to Mr. Colby, Chairman, USIB, dated 15 April 1974, entitled "Soviet Chemical Warfare Capabilities" ☐

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b. Memorandum from Vice Admiral de Poix to Mr. Colby, Chairman, USIB, dated 3 June 1974, entitled "Soviet Chemical Warfare Capabilities" ☐

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1. The intelligence community has recently completed a comprehensive review of the Soviet chemical warfare capabilities. The results are included in NSSM 192, draft copies of which have been circulated to agencies concerned, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Secretary of Defense. This document reflects the current community view of the Soviet chemical warfare capability and will be helpful in identifying areas where serious gaps exist in our collection capability.

2. Since publication of the Critical Collection Problems Committee report mentioned in your memorandum (reference b.), the Scientific Intelligence Committee of USIB has stimulated numerous specific actions to improve collection of BW/CW intelligence data. These actions have included seminars of several days' duration, attended by most of the analysts involved in the collection, dissemination, and evaluation of BW/CW intelligence data. The purpose of the seminars has been to draw attention to gaps in our knowledge of Soviet CW capabilities. Priorities for collection are assigned and are revised periodically, and close coordination is maintained with all agencies contributing to the overall collection effort.

Exempt from general declassification schedule of E. O. 11652 exemption category 5B(1). Automatically declassified on: Date impossible to determine.

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3. CIA is participating with the intelligence elements of the Department of Defense in exploitation of Soviet CW material [redacted] [redacted] This program is beginning to provide additional data on Soviet CW capabilities, and the information will be promulgated in normal channels as it becomes available.

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4. Rear Admiral [redacted] my National Intelligence Officer for Conventional Forces, assures me that [redacted] which should be available in the fall, will assess Soviet CW doctrine, capabilities, and force deployments and will contain any intelligence obtained from the above exploitation programs.

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*15/ Bill*  
W. E. Colby  
Chairman

cc: George J. Keegan, Jr.  
Major General, USAF  
Asst Chief of Staff, Intelligence

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2	Chairman, USIB	6/29/74	mc/bip		
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Remarks:

The attached draft memorandum prepared by [ ] and the SIC Staff is a suggested response for you to forward to Admiral de Poix and General Keegan regarding their concern for an update on Soviet CW offensive capabilities. If you approve, please sign the attached memorandum to Admiral de Poix.

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Remarks:

The attached correspondence from General Keegan and Admiral de Poix on Soviet chemical warfare capabilities has been referred to the Chairman, Scientific Intelligence Committee in accordance with a USIB directive that the responsibilities associated with Soviet Biological Warfare/Chemical Warfare, as assigned to the CCPC, be transferred to the SIC. It is also noted that contrary to the correspondence, the most recent review of Soviet BW/CW was submitted to USIB in May 1972.

The Chairman, SIC, has been requested to review the correspondence in coordination with the NIO for Conventional Forces and prepare a response or recommendations for the DCI's consideration.

cc:

D/DCI/IC

D/DCI/NIO

NIO/Conventional Forces

Chairman, SIC

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